

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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The following report lists personnel and activities at VEB Elektrochemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld during the period June to October 1954.

1. Personnel

Dr. Walter Heyder - Chief Director
Dr. Ehlers (fnu) - Head of Sales and Production
Dipl. Ing. Gruhle (fnu) - Technical Director (replaced Dr. Wolfgang Schiller, who fled to the West)
Dipl. Ing. Kölsch(fnu) - Sales Department, and newly appointed director
Dipl. Ing. Reinicke(fnu) - Power Station Director
Gerats (fnu) - Labor Director
Dipl. Ing. Hundt (fnu) - Head of the main workshops (replaced Dipl. Ing. Odelga (fnu))
Ing. Pflumm(fnu) - Head of the Research Department (replaced Dipl. Ing. Hundt (fnu))
Dr. Geidel (fnu) - Head of the Patent Department (replaced Dr. Grossrau (fnu))
Dipl. Landwirt Brunner (fnu) - Head of the Economic and Agriculture Department of the works.

2. 1954 Expansion Program

- The production of methylene chloride and the expansion of the power station are in progress.
- Preparations are under way for the production of the following: Pentachlorophenol, montan wax, 100% gamma-hexachlorocyclohexane, Zelligelit.

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3. Special Research Projectsa. Titanium Metal

The curling process without the inert gas titanium-tetrachloride is being investigated for about 5 kg. of titanium per charge. Up to the present time, only about 90% titanium has been obtained because of leakages.

b. Zirconium Metal

There is a lack of pure zirconium chloride as a basic material for producing zirconium metal. The impure chloride which has so far been used has resulted in zirconium containing iron impurities. (As for titanium, the same vacuum oven is used.) A semitechnical plant is in existence for smelting ore in the presence of chlorine to produce zirconium chloride. There are difficulties, however, when the chloride thus formed has to be separated off. Containers are at present being constructed in a semitechnical plant for dealing with raw materials. An oven plant exists for the preparation of powdered zirconium oxide weighing about .5 gr. per cubic centimeter, but there are production difficulties because of the condensation of hydro-chloric acid on the nozzles (Düse). A nozzle made of quartz is being prepared to replace one made of plastic (Ingurit) which proved unsuitable. The pilot plant should be able to produce three tons per month, but this will not be possible.

4. General Observations

- a. There is at the present time no production of pure calcium.
- b. It is noteworthy that the plastic material Ingurit can stand temperatures up to 300° C.
- c. The shortage of magnesium is serious and a small quantity will be imported shortly from the USSR.

d.

[redacted] an increased production of light metal turbine wheels will begin. The turbine wheels are about 30 cms. in diameter, and have about 20 vanes on each side.

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